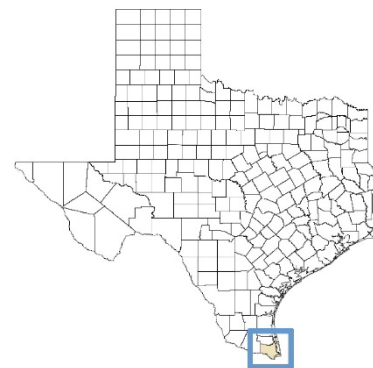


Cameron County Water Supply Planning Information & Resources



This document summarizes key water supply planning information for Cameron County and highlights planning and drought resources available from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). This document was developed to support regional water planning group outreach efforts aimed at improving engagement with small and rural entities.

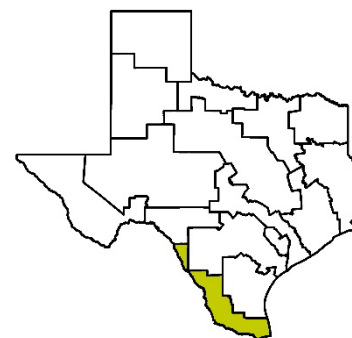
All water utilities in the state are strongly encouraged to participate in the regional water planning process and utilize TWDB resources to ensure sufficient water supplies are available for all Texans in times of drought.

Definitions of common [regional water planning terms and acronyms are available at this link](#).

Future Water Supply Plans

Rio Grande (M) Regional Water Planning

Cameron County is located in the Rio Grande (M) Regional Water Planning Area, which encompasses eight counties within the middle and lower Rio Grande Valley (Figure 1). The Rio Grande (M) Regional Water Planning Group is responsible for developing a regional water plan every five years based on conditions that the region would face under a recurrence of a historical drought of record. The results of the regional water plan are included in the state water plan and inform state financial assistance and surface water right permitting decisions. The 2026 plan is currently under development and due to the TWDB in October 2025.



**Figure 1 – Rio Grande (M)
Regional Water Planning Area**

Public involvement is a key component to regional water planning. To ensure your water needs are accurately reflected in the 2026 plan, get involved in Region M water planning by visiting <http://www.riograndewaterplan.org/> or contact the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council at vramos@lrgvdc.org, 956-682-3481.

2021 Rio Grande (M) Regional Water Plan

The 2021 Rio Grande (M) Regional Water Plan is available at <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/plans/2021/index.asp>.

The following highlights from the plan are included in Attachment I

- Table A1 summarizes current water supply sources, 2020 and 2070 water supply needs, and recommended water management strategies for water user groups in Cameron County.
- Table A2 provides additional context on the severity of the identified water supply needs by expressing the needs as a percentage of each water user group's total demand. The larger the percent of an entity's total demand, the more severe a potential shortage may be.
- Table A3 presents unmet needs that remain even if all the recommended strategies in the plan were implemented.

Water Providers in Cameron County

Municipal Water User Groups

Public water systems provide potable water for public use and have at least 15 service connections or serve at least 25 individuals at least 60 days out of the year. Public water systems that provide more than 100 acre-feet of water per year for municipal use are considered municipal water user groups and are individually planned for in the regional water planning process. Note that some municipal water user groups include more than one public water system. Table 1 lists the Cameron County municipal water user groups for the 2026 regional water plan and associated public water systems that are located in the county.

Table 1. Cameron County municipal water user groups and associated public water systems

Water User Group	Associated Public Water Systems(s)
Brownsville	BROWNSVILLE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD (TX0310001)
Combes	TOWN OF COMBES (TX0310021) ^{R**}
East Rio Hondo WSC	EAST RIO HONDO WSC (TX0310096); EAST RIO HONDO WSC ARROYO CITY (TX0310031) ^R
El Jardin WSC	EL JARDIN WSC (TX0310022)
Harlingen	HARLINGEN WATER WORKS SYSTEM (TX0310002)
La Feria	CITY OF LA FERIA (TX0310003) ^R
Laguna Madre Water District	LAGUNA MADRE WATER DISTRICT (TX0310005) ^R
Los Fresnos	CITY OF LOS FRESNOS (TX0310004) ^R
Military Highway WSC*	MILITARY HWY WSC DEL MAR HEIGHTS (TX0310147) ^R ; MILITARY HWY WSC LAS RUSIAS (TX1080067)
North Alamo WSC*	NORTH ALAMO WSC (TX1080029)
Olmito WSC	OLMITO WSC (TX0310026)
Palm Valley	CITY OF PALM VALLEY (TX0310027) ^R
Primera	CITY OF PRIMERA (TX0310094) ^R
Rio Hondo	CITY OF RIO HONDO (TX0310006) ^{R**}
San Benito	CITY OF SAN BENITO (TX0310007)
Santa Rosa	CITY OF SANTA ROSA (TX0310009) ^{R**}
Valley MUD 2	VALLEY MUD 2 RANCHO VIEJO (TX0310059)

^R Public water system meets the definition of a rural political subdivision as defined in [Texas Water Code 15.001\(14\)](#).

* Water user group is split by more than one county. Public water systems associated with the water user group and located in Cameron County are shown.

** Current records show that the public water system did not submit a water use survey response in 2023.

County-Other Water Systems

County-other water systems are a subset of public water systems that provide on average less than 100 acre-feet of water per year for municipal use. For TWDB planning purposes, the following systems will be grouped together and planned for under the County-Other, Cameron water user group category in the 2026 regional water plan:

- LA MIRADA COUNTRY ESTATES (TX0310143)
- TOWN OF INDIAN LAKE (TX0310008)^R

^R Public water system meets the definition of a rural political subdivision as defined in [Texas Water Code 15.001\(14\)](#).

Status of Water Systems and Supply

This section highlights potentially vulnerable water systems in Cameron County that serve a population of 7,500 or less and rely on a single water source and systems that have recently reported having 180 days or less of available supply.

Entities that are identified as 7,500 / sole source

The following entities were identified in the 2021 Rio Grande (M) Regional Water Plan as having a 2010 population less than 7,500 and relying on a sole source for their water supply regardless of whether that water is provided by a wholesale water provider. These entities are highlighted since they may be more vulnerable in times of drought or in the event of a loss of water supply.

- Combes
- La Feria
- Olmito WSC
- Palm Valley
- Rio Hondo
- Santa Rosa

The 2021 Rio Grande (M) Regional Water Plan presents potential emergency response options for entities with populations less than 7,500 that rely on a sole source and county-other water user groups in the region. Emergency response options could potentially include addition of a local groundwater well, trucking in water, importing supply from a nearby entity, or utilizing existing emergency interconnects. For the temporary emergency response options identified for entities in Cameron County, see [Chapter 7](#) of the 2021 Rio Grande (M) Regional Water Plan.

180-day Priority List occurrences

Retail public utilities are required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to report when the utility is reasonably certain that its water supply will be available for less than 180 days. Between January 2016 and November 2023, no public water systems in Cameron County reported having approximately 180 days or less of water supply remaining.

Key TWDB Resources for Water Planning & Drought

Interactive State Water Plan

The online [Interactive State Water Plan](https://texasstatewaterplan.org/) provides access to detailed planning data presented at varying geographic levels, through maps, tables, and additional graphics. Users can customize what they see, for example, by selecting data associated with a specific water use category or from a specific planning decade. The displayed data is also downloadable in a spreadsheet format.

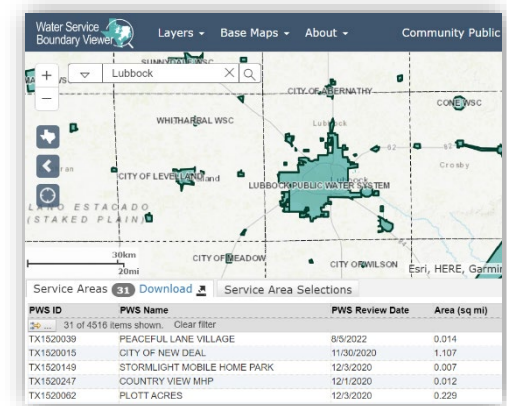
To explore detailed planning data for Cameron County in the Interactive State Water Plan, visit <https://texasstatewaterplan.org/>.



Texas Water Service Boundary Viewer

The Texas Water Service Boundary Viewer (TWSBV) is a public water system service area mapping application that strives to provide the most up-to-date and best data available on the service areas for all community public water systems within Texas. The TWSBV also provides links to supplemental public water system information, including system specific data from the Drinking Water Watch (maintained by the TCEQ) as well as water use survey information.

The application is used to collect accurate retail water service boundaries to better estimate and project utility population and rural population not served by a system for the regional and state water plans.



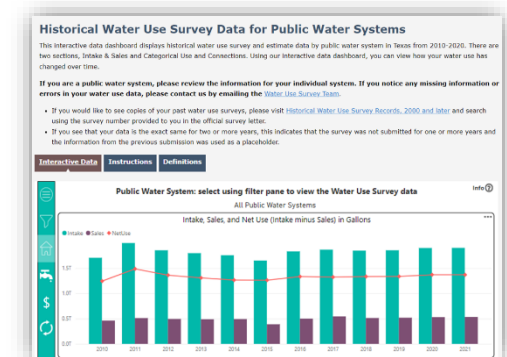
Water systems are encouraged to use the application to verify that their service area boundaries on file are accurate and update them if changes have occurred. Information for editors (utilities) is available at: <http://bit.ly/ServiceBoundaryEditor>.

The public can view water system areas on file at <https://www2.twdb.texas.gov/apps/WaterServiceBoundaries>.

Water Use Survey

The TWDB is legislatively directed to provide planning and financial assistance for the development and management of water resources in Texas. This activity is dependent upon the accuracy and completeness of the information that water users provide in the annual Water Use Survey.

The TWDB annually collects and maintains information concerning current state water use in various reports accessible here: <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/waterusesurvey/estimates>



TWDB Water Loss Resources

Reducing water loss offers utilities the ability to increase their water use efficiency, improve their financial status, and assist with long-term water sustainability. Currently, all retail public water systems with more than 3,300 connections or a financial obligation to TWDB are required to annually complete and submit a [Water Loss Audit](#). All other retail public water suppliers are required to submit a water loss audit to the TWDB every five years. Water loss audits are required to be submitted by an individual [trained](#) in water loss auditing.

Water loss audits help determine the appropriate actions for water loss control but, only if the water loss audit data is validated. Starting in 2025, a Water Loss Audit is required to be validated if the utility has an existing financial obligation to TWDB or is applying financial assistance from TWDB. Visit the TWDB [Water Loss Audit Validation](#) webpage for more information.

TWDB staff are available to provide water loss audit assistance and work with utility staff to better understand how water loss audits can benefit their utility. For more information on leak detection, how to collect and report accurate data, and data validation, visit <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/waterloss/>.

TWDB Drought Resources

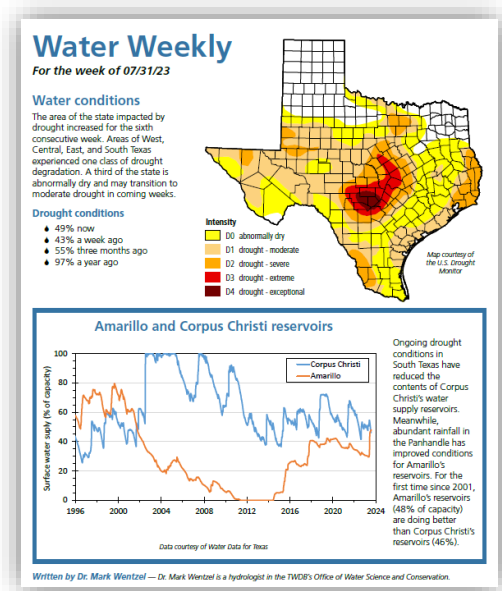
The TWDB offers a variety of resources to assist Texans with drought response and preparedness on the [TWDB Drought Resources webpage](#), including

[Water Data for Texas](#): Water Data for Texas provides information on reservoir storage levels, lake evaporation and precipitation, and water levels at the automated groundwater level wells among other types of information.

[Drought Dashboard](#): The TWDB's drought dashboard provides information on conditions across the state, including rainfall, temperature, streamflow, and soil moisture as well as various drought indices and U.S. Drought Monitor status.

[Water Weekly](#): Water weekly provides a weekly summary of drought conditions across the state.

[Texas Water Conditions Report](#): Report provides a monthly summary of the state's drought and water conditions.



TWDB Financial Assistance Programs

The TWDB offers a variety of cost-effective loan and grant programs that provide for the planning, acquisition, design, and construction of water related infrastructure and other water quality improvements. [Urgent need funding is available through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#) to assist communities with addressing unforeseen situations that require immediate attention to protect public health and safety.

For more information about TWDB financial assistance programs, visit <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/>, or contact TWDB at 512-463-0991, Financial_Assistance@twdb.texas.gov.

Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)

The TDEM coordinates the state emergency management program, which is intended to ensure the state and its local governments respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters and implement plans and programs to help prevent or lessen the impact of emergencies and disasters. The chief of TDEM is the state drought manager and is responsible for managing and coordinating the drought response component of the state water plan. For more information, visit <https://www.tdem.texas.gov/> or contact 512-424-2208.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

The TCEQ provides hands-on assistance to communities responding to drought, consults with public water systems about implementing drought contingency plans, tracks public drinking water systems under water-use restrictions, actively manages water in Watermaster Programs, answers the public drought-information hot line: 800-447-2827, and offers drought information on its website: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/drought>.

In the event of a drinking water emergency, contact your [TCEQ regional office](#). For after-hours emergencies, call 1-888-777-3186.

Attachment I – 2021 Rio Grande (M) Regional Water Plan Summary Tables

Table A1. Cameron County planning summary

Water User Group	Current Water Supply Sources	2020 Water Need (acre-feet/year)	2070 Water Need (acre-feet/year)	Recommended Water Management Strategies
Brownsville	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System; Gulf Coast Aquifer System	0	24,903	Direct potable reuse; Drought management; Municipal conservation; Other surface water
Combes	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System	0	0	Municipal conservation
County-Other, Cameron	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System	2,141	3,553	Groundwater wells and other; Municipal conservation; Other surface water
East Rio Hondo WSC*	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System; Gulf Coast Aquifer System	0	1,041	Drought management; Groundwater desalination; Municipal conservation; Other surface water
El Jardin WSC	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System	26	1,232	Drought management; Municipal conservation; Other surface water
Harlingen	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System; Direct Reuse	0	6,201	Municipal conservation; Other surface water
Irrigation, Cameron	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System; Gulf Coast Aquifer System; Nueces-Rio Grande Run-of-River	359,212	273,147	Agricultural conservation; Other strategies
La Feria	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System	0	0	Groundwater desalination; Municipal conservation
Laguna Madre Water District	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System	417	7,322	Direct potable reuse; Drought management; Municipal conservation; Other surface water; Seawater desalination
Livestock, Cameron	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System	0	0	None
Los Fresnos	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System; Gulf Coast Aquifer System	0	0	Municipal conservation; Other surface water
Manufacturing, Cameron	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System; Gulf Coast Aquifer System	618	817	Industrial conservation

Water User Group	Current Water Supply Sources	2020 Water Need (acre-feet/year)	2070 Water Need (acre-feet/year)	Recommended Water Management Strategies
Military Highway WSC*	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System; Gulf Coast Aquifer System	0	5,169	Drought management; Municipal conservation; Other surface water
Mining, Cameron	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System	0	0	Industrial conservation
North Alamo WSC*	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System; Gulf Coast Aquifer System	5,809	36,112	Drought management; Groundwater desalination; Municipal conservation; Other surface water
Olmito WSC	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System	0	849	Drought management; Municipal conservation; Other direct reuse; Other surface water
Palm Valley	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System	0	0	Municipal conservation
Primera	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System; Gulf Coast Aquifer System	0	0	Drought management; Groundwater desalination; Municipal conservation; Other surface water
Rio Hondo	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System	0	0	Groundwater wells and other; Municipal conservation; Other direct reuse
San Benito	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System	0	944	Drought management; Groundwater desalination; Municipal conservation; Other surface water
Santa Rosa	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System	0	0	Municipal conservation
Steam-Electric Power, Cameron	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System	3,425	3,425	Industrial conservation; Other direct reuse
Valley MUD 2	Amistad-Falcon Lake/Reservoir System; Direct Reuse; Gulf Coast Aquifer System	0	459	Municipal conservation

* Water user group is split by more than one county. Table presents the water user group's total summary data for all related counties.

Table A2. Cameron County projected needs of every water user group, as a share of total demand (percent)

Water User Group	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070
Brownsville	-	-	8	19	29	36
Combes	-	-	-	-	-	-
County-Other, Cameron	54	51	57	61	66	67
East Rio Hondo WSC*	-	-	-	-	8	17
El Jardin WSC	2	13	23	32	39	45
Harlingen	-	-	-	6	14	23
Irrigation, Cameron	67	66	65	63	62	61
La Feria	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laguna Madre Water District	5	18	28	37	44	49
Livestock, Cameron	-	-	-	-	-	-
Los Fresnos	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manufacturing, Cameron	38	44	44	44	44	44
Military Highway WSC*	-	1	14	25	34	41
Mining, Cameron	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Alamo WSC*	21	34	44	51	57	62
Olmito WSC	-	5	16	26	34	40
Palm Valley	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primera	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rio Hondo	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Benito	-	-	-	-	5	14
Santa Rosa	-	-	-	-	-	-
Steam-Electric Power, Cameron	96	96	96	96	96	96
Valley MUD 2	-	-	-	8	17	25

* Water user group is split by more than one county. Table presents the water user group’s total data for all related counties.


 Color graded scale of needs as a share of demand from 0 (green) to 100 percent (red). **Bold** indicates needs are 100 percent met by implementation of the plan.

Table A3. Cameron County unmet needs (acre-feet per year)

Water User Group	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070
Irrigation, Cameron	342,829	329,057	315,099	300,041	285,988	272,661
Manufacturing, Cameron	436	614	614	614	613	614
Steam-Electric Power, Cameron	3,070	0	0	0	0	0



Texas Water Development Board
1700 North Congress Avenue,
Austin, Texas 78701
512-463-7847
www.twdb.texas.gov